reports of looting of houses of the ethnic Indians mostly in one province namely, Tailevu from where George Speight comes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Strengthening of Indo-Israel relations

† 553. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel has offered cooperation in the field of advance technology, communications and other areas in order to strengthen the Indo-Israel relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The ongoing cooperation between India and Israel is multi-faceted and includes areas like trade, economy, investment, agriculture, tout ism, culture, science and technology etc. Possibilities for cooperation in other fields including information technology and communication are being explored.

Boosting of ties with Iran

554. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what progress has been made to boost ties between India and Iran so far; and

(b) how Government propose to accelerate the pace of progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India's relations with Iran that are rooted in history and based on cultural and civilisational affinities have witnessed all round progress.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.